

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 02151 101533Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W
-----072478 110206Z /62

R 101432Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2647

UNCLAS LOMEE 2151

FOR AF/EX/PMO "NO DISTRIBUTION OUTSIDE AF"

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP PDIP
SUBJ: CUSTOMS AND TAX LIABILITIES FOR FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL

REF: STATE 177448

1. THE TOGOLESE DO NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN STAFF PERSONNEL AND THOSE ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST BUT RATHER BETWEEN BEARERS OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS AND OFFICIAL PASSPORTS. AMERICAN PERSONNEL WHO HOLD OFFICIAL PASSPORTS ARE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL TAXES:

A. ANNUAL LOCAL VEHICLE PROPERTY TAX OF 12,000 CFA ANNUALLY.

B. A ONE TIME 3,000 CFA LICENSE PLATE TAX.

C. 500 CFA INSPECTION FOR EVERY SIX MONTHS.

2. OFFICIAL PASSPORT HOLDERS ARE ONLY ALLOWED TO IMPORT PERSONAL EFFECTS AND POV INTO TOGO DUTY FREE DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THEIR RESIDENCY.

3. AMERICAN PERSONNEL WITH OFFICIAL PASSPORTS ARE ALLOWED TO IMPORT 15 BOTTLE OF LIQUOR EACH 6 MONTHS WHILE PERSONS BEARING DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS MAY IMPORT 200.

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4. DURING THE PAST YEAR MISSION WAS SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING FULL LIQUOR IMPORT PRIVILEGES FOR THE AID OFFICER, HOWEVER POST WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN HAVING THIS SAME OFFICER INCLUDED IN THE DIPLOMATIC LIST BECAUSE SHE DID NOT HAVE A DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT.

5. WITH ONLY TWO EXCEPTIONS, ALL MISSION MEMBERS HAVE DIPLOMATIC

PASSPORTS. THE AUTOMOBILE TAX IS SLIGHTLY MORE THAN \$50.00
ANNUALLY. THE PRICE REDUCTION ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AVERAGES
BETWEEN .50 AND .75 CENTS A BOTTLE, BUT RETAIL PRICES ON ALCOHOL
BEVERAGES IN LOME ARE EQUIVALENT TO OR LOWER THAN PRICES IN MOST
AIRPORT DUTY FREE SHOPS. THE SIX MONTH LIMITATION IS REALLY NOT
A PROBLEM SINCE MOST INDIVIDUALS ONLY ORDER FROM STATESIDE
VENDORS.
POST ROUTINELY INCLUDES THESE SLIGHT COST DIFFERENTIALS IN ITS
ANNUAL RETAIL PRICE SURVEY, DS23, SO PRESUMABLY THE ALLOWANCES
SECTION INCORPORATES THESE INTO OUR COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE.
PALMER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LOME02151
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770288-0914
Format: TEL
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770877/aaaacnjk.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f9c8305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 77 STATE 177448
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1648746
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CUSTOMS AND TAX LIABILITIES FOR FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL
TAGS: AFSP, PDIP, APER, TO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f9c8305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009